(c) The Manisana Wage Board set up by Ministry of Labour under provisions of Working Journalists and other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955 has recommended monthly payment of Hardship Allowance to an employee working in a disturbed area.

(d) A decision has been taken to set up a Journalists Welfare Fund under this Ministry.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

NRI/OCB Investment in Air India and Indian Airlines

3665. SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA:
SHRI V.V.RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a)whether it is a fact that the NRI/OCB investment is being treated as foreign investment in the case of Air India while it is being treated on par with resident Indian investment in Indian Airlines and in other industries; and

(b)if so, the details and the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) The investment by NRIs/OCBs in the case of Indian Airlines has been set out in keeping with the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy for domestic airlines sector, which is as under:

"(i) FDI upto 40% permitted subject to no direct or indirect equity participation by foreign airlines is allowed.

(ii) 100% investment by NRIs/OCBs.

(iii) The automatic route is not available."

There is no corresponding FDI policy with respect to foreign investment in non-domestic airline'such as Air India. The decision of the Government to regard NRI/OCB holdings as 'foreign holding' for the Air India disinvestment is a policy decision, which has been taken after due consideration of relevant factors, including an analysis of earlier precedents in the insurance and telecom sector(s).